

CLAIMS

1. Apparatus for treating fibrillation of at least one chamber of a heart comprising a fibrillation detector (1) for detecting a fibrillation, a defibrillator (2) for defibrillating the chamber of the heart, wherein the defibrillator is connected to the fibrillation detector (1) and is adapted to effect defibrillation subsequently to a time interval after detection of the fibrillation, a warning device (3) which is connected to the fibrillation detector (1) and which is adapted to delivery a warning signal when a fibrillation has been detected, and a control means (4) having a control input (5) actuable by a patient, wherein the control means is connected to the defibrillator (2) and is adapted to delay the time of a defibrillation if the control means (4) receives a corresponding signal by way of the control input (5), characterized in that the apparatus includes a condition detector (6) which is adapted to detect a hemodynamic condition of the heart, and the control means (4) is connected to the condition detector (6) and is adapted to prevent a delay in the time of defibrillation when the condition detector (6) detects a predetermined hemodynamic condition.

2. Apparatus as set forth in claim 1 characterized in that the fibrillation detector (1) is adapted to detect atrial fibrillation and the defibrillator (2) is adapted to treat atrial fibrillation.

3. Apparatus as set forth in claim 1 or claim 2 characterized in that the fibrillation detector (1) is adapted to detect ventricular fibrillation.

4. Apparatus as set forth in claim 3 characterized in that the defibrillator (2) is adapted to treat ventricular fibrillation.

5. Apparatus as set forth in one of the preceding claims characterized in that the warning device (3) is connected to the condition detector (6) and is adapted to output a first warning signal when the

predetermined hemodynamic condition and a fibrillation were detected, and to output a second warning signal when no predetermined hemodynamic condition and a fibrillation were detected.

6. Apparatus as set forth in one of the preceding claims characterized in that the defibrillator (2) is adapted to deliver a pain killer and/or a tranquilizer prior to defibrillation.

7. Apparatus as set forth in one of the preceding claims characterized by a pain therapy unit which is connected to the control means (4) and to nerve electrodes and is adapted to deliver by way of the nerve electrodes electrical pulses which are suitable for numbing pain sensations.

8. Apparatus as set forth in one of the preceding claims characterized in that the condition detector (6) is adapted to ascertain the predetermined hemodynamic condition on the basis of one or more indicators.

9. Apparatus as set forth in claim 3 and claim 8 characterized in that the condition detector (6) is connected to the fibrillation detector (1) and is adapted to detect ventricular fibrillation as the indicator or as one of the indicators.

10. Apparatus as set forth in claim 8 or claim 9 characterized in that the condition detector (6) is adapted to detect heart output as the indicator or as one of the indicators.

11. Apparatus as set forth in claim 10 characterized in that the condition detector (6) is adapted to detect heart output by means of epicardial or endocardial impedance measurements.

12. Apparatus as set forth in claim 8, claim 9, claim 10 or claim 11 characterized in that the condition detector (6) is adapted to detect a blood pressure as the indicator or as one of the indicators.

13. Apparatus as set forth in one of the preceding claims characterized by means for manually initiating atrial defibrillation from outside the body, which are at least indirectly connected to the defibrillator (2) and are adapted to cause initiation of defibrillation by a patient even in the situation in which the fibrillation detector (1) has not yet detected fibrillation.

14. Apparatus as set forth in claim 13 characterized in that the control means (4) includes the means for manual initiation of atrial defibrillation.